

REMARKS

This amendment is offered in response to the Office Action of January 15, 2002.

It is respectfully submitted that this amendment will require neither a new search nor substantial reconsideration.

The Examiner has provisionally rejected Claims 6-8 under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of application serial no. 09/915,100. The Applicant will file a terminal disclaimer, if necessary, when the application is otherwise in condition for allowance.

The Applicant notes that only Claim 6 is pending in the present application.

The Examiner has rejected Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over the Thomas reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,788,378). Similarly, the Examiner has rejected Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over the Stolmeier reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,564,259) in view of the Thieman reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,965,924) or the Laguerre reference (U.S. Patent No. 3,701,192).

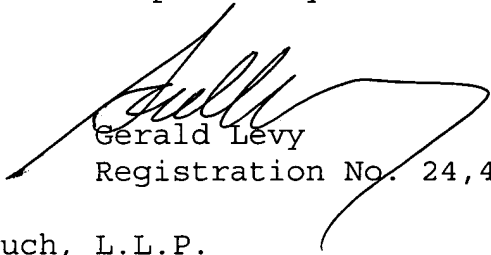
Claim 6 has been amended to clarify that the series of concatenated packages are provided on a form, fill and seal line. Similarly, Claim 6 has been amended to clarify that the

"removing" and "inserting" step is performed with the concatenated package. There is nothing in the cited references, alone or in combination, which discloses the insertion of a slider onto the zipper of a package in a series of concatenated packages. In particular, the Thomas reference does not disclose a series of concatenated packages.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that Claim 6 is in immediate condition for allowance.

For all of the reasons above, it is respectfully submitted that the presently pending claim is in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw his rejections of the claim, to enter the present amendment, to allow the claim, and to pass this application to early issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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